



THE POWER OF



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A Newsletter For Kentucky Transportation Cabinet District 10 Employees

KYTC, state & local officials cut ribbon on new section of KY 7 in Morgan Co.

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Secretary Bill Nighbert joined local officials in Morgan County and West Liberty on Dec. 2 to cut a ribbon ceremonially marking the opening of a new section of KY 7. This event marked the successful completion of a major project that will result in safer travels for Morgan County residents as well as drivers throughout eastern Kentucky who use this route.

The event was moved from the area of the highway to the Morgan County Community Center because of cold weather. A large crowd of Morgan County residents and Transportation Cabinet employees attended.

"This new highway provides a vital transportation link not only to local residents, but to all of eastern Kentucky," Secretary Nighbert said. "This route is an important connector link between the Mountain Parkway and Interstate 64. The new section replaces a substandard but heavily traveled older alignment that was narrow, marked by

hazardous curves and prone to slips and slides. This new section of road represents a major safety improvement. It will benefit economic development efforts in the region and will improve access to education and health care opportunities for those living in Morgan and nearby counties."

Morgan County Judge-Executive Tim Conley was the master of ceremonies. Also speaking as part of the program were John Will Stacy, state representative from Morgan County, and Linda Wagner-Justice, chief district engineer for District 10. A number of Transportation Cabinet employees attended and were recognized for their work on the project.



Cutting the ribbon for new KY 7 were John Will Stacy, state representative; Robert Nickell, West Liberty mayor; Bill Nighbert, KYTC secretary; Linda Wagner-Justice, District 10 chief district engineer; Tim Conley, Morgan County judge-executive; and Patty White, Governor's Office representative.

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Ribbon cut on KY 7 in Morgan County



The Morgan County Disabled American Veterans provided the color guard for the ceremony.

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The new 2.1-mile alignment opened to traffic in September. Some final surfacing and landscaping work remains to be completed, along with guardrail installation, before the construction project is complete. The contract was awarded on the \$13,052,742.94 project in January 2003 and work began later that year.

The new route begins at the north city limits of West Liberty, just north of the US 460 intersection. It ends at the intersection of KY 7 and KY 519, and includes a new bridge crossing Elk Fork near the northern end. The route ties into KY 519, much of which has been improved in Morgan and Rowan counties, connecting West Liberty and Morehead. Several sections of KY 7

in Morgan, Elliott and Carter counties between the north end of this project and Grayson have also been rebuilt or are slated for improvements in the state's Six-Year Plan.

Not only is this route part of a corridor under development between the Mountain Parkway and I-64, but eventually it will become part of a larger corridor linking I-75 at London with I-64 in the Grayson-Ashland area. That corridor will serve the counties of Laurel, Jackson, Owsley, Lee, Wolfe, Morgan, Elliott and Carter.

Thanks go out to all who participated in the ceremony, which turned out to be a success.

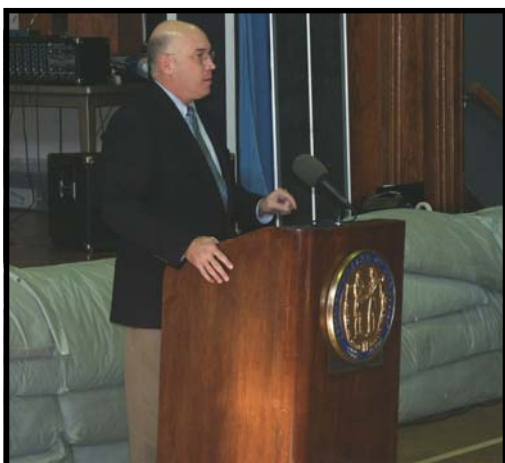


Ariel Frederick, a senior at Morgan County High School, sang the national anthem.

Morgan County ribbon-cutting scenes



Above, KYTC employees. Above left, Morgan County Judge-Executive Tim Conley. Left, the crowd attending the event.



Far left, State Rep. John Will Stacy. Left, Morgan County Disabled American Veterans. Above, KYTC Secretary Bill Nighbert

Saved By The Belt!

District 10 employee Shane Turner among those honored for wearing restraints during an accident

District 10 employee Shane Turner was among the first group of "Saved by the Belt" award recipients honored by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet on Jan. 12. The program, which was introduced last September, is designed to focus attention on the importance of seatbelt usage by recognizing Kentuckians whose lives have been saved, or whose injuries have been significantly reduced because they were wearing a safety belt at the time of a crash.

Governor Ernie Fletcher highlighted the importance of using safety belts during his State of the Commonwealth address on Jan. 9 when he said, "It's time for a primary seat belt law in Kentucky." The governor went on to say that "a primary seatbelt law can save 62 lives in just the first year."

A primary seat belt law will also provide \$11 million extra federal dollars for road safety. Along with the engineering solutions and education programs that these dollars will be used for, the Governor also committed to using some of those dollars to pay for new guard rails to better protect everyone who drives on our roads.



Shane Turner, center, with KYTC Deputy Secretary Jim Adams, left, and Boyd Sigler with the Division of Driver Safety, right.

The initial group of "Saved by the Belt" award recipients was praised by Transportation Secretary Bill Nighbert. "It only takes about two seconds to fasten a safety belt. The presence of these individuals here today is living proof that those two seconds can mean the difference in life or death."

Transportation Cabinet Deputy Secretary Jim Adams ex-

plained the ultimate goal of the "Saved by the Belt" program to those who attended the event. "We hope that, with the help of people like our award recipients, we will be better able to focus public attention on the ultimate benefits of buckling up."

"We're trying to encourage the adoption of a very good habit," said Boyd Sigler, the Transportation Cabinet's Highway Safety operations manager. "There is no question about the fact that seatbelt usage is the very best insurance we have for surviving an accident. Unfortunately, statistics show, for too many Kentuckians, buckling up is not second nature."

Kentucky's seatbelt usage rate is 67 percent, which

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‘Saved By The Belt:’ A survivor’s story

“There is no doubt in my mind. If I hadn’t had it on, I would not be here today.”

That’s what Shane Turner says about the seat belt that he credits for saving his life in a traffic accident he had last summer.

Turner, an engineering tech II with District 10’s Materials Lab, survived an accident that could very well have been fatal had he not been wearing his seat belt.

Turner doesn’t recall the exact date of the accident offhand, but he remembers it occurring on a foggy morning early last summer. The wreck happened on KY 1110 near Haddix, about a mile from the intersection with KY 15.

Turner saw a deer in the highway and evasive action to it. He ran off the roadway and over a hill about 75 feet, where the S-10 pickup truck he was driving struck a small tree then ended with the front end in the North Fork of the Kentucky River.



Shane Turner recognized for being ‘Saved By The Belt’

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ranks the state 47th in the nation. In 2005, 975 people died in highway crashes. Two-thirds of those were not wearing safety belts.

In October, 2004, Gov. Fletcher formed the Governor’s Executive Committee on Highway Safety. During Kentucky’s Lifesavers Conference in April, 2005, the governor announced that the Executive Committee

would be “One Voice” behind all of Kentucky’s highway safety initiatives. Deputy Secretary Adams chairs that committee, which is charged with finding ways to reduce the number of highway fatalities and injuries in Kentucky.

If you have been saved by the belt, you can access the guidelines and nomination form at <http://highwaysafety.ky.gov/>.



Following the district office's Thanksgiving lunch on Wednesday, Nov. 23, a wedding shower was held for Craig Lindon. Craig and Angie Pence were married on Dec. 10 at Campton United Methodist Church. Angie is currently a student at Auburn University's School of Pharmacy and will graduate in May. Craig is a D-10 employee. Congratulations and best wishes to the newlyweds!



Santa Claus paid a visit to D-10 on Thursday, Dec. 22. Assisted by Connie Price, he handed out gifts to the children present and found out what they wanted him to bring for Christmas. Thanks to Rod Wells for taking the picture, as the D-10 PIO was busy at the time and unable to take a photo!

Calendar of Events

- Jan. 29 — Chinese New Year
- Feb. 12 — Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb. 14 — Valentine's Day
- Feb. 19 — Daytona 500
- Feb. 20 — Presidents' Day
- Feb. 22 — George Washington's Birthday
- March 1 — Ash Wednesday
- March 17 — St. Patrick's Day
- March 20 — First Day of Spring



A NEWSLETTER FOR KENTUCKY
TRANSPORTATION CABINET DISTRICT 10
EMPLOYEES

THE POWER OF 10



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